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DELAWARE

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FARM NEWS

Informational Newsletter

April 24, 1956

SECRETARY BENSON ANNOUNCES DAIRY SUPPORT INCREASES FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson increased dairy support prices to 58.6 cents per pound of butterfat and \$3.25 per hundred pounds of manufacturing milk for the 1956-57 dairy marketing year which runs through March 31, 1957. This follows the President's statement on Monday, April 16, that prompt administrative action would be taken to improve farm income, with the supports for manufacturing milk and butterfat raised to these levels.

In order to carry out the dairy support increases, Commodity Credit Corporation's buying prices are upped immediately by two cents per pound on butter and one cent per pound on cheese, for products produced on or after April 1, 1956. These increased buying prices will enable processors to increase prices paid to producers by 10 cents per hundred pounds of manufacturing milk, and 2.4 cents per pound of butterfat. Purchase prices of nonfat dry milk solids are not being changed.

The change in buying prices also increases the CCC domestic selling price for butter and cheddar cheese by two cents and one cent per pound, respectively.

The support prices are increased from \$3.15 to \$3.25 per hundred pounds of manufacturing milk and from 56.2 to 58.6 cents per pound of butterfat in farm-separated cream. The new support prices represent 84 percent of the parity equivalent price of manufacturing milk and 81 percent of the parity price for butterfat, as of March 15, 1956. The former prices represented 82 percent of the parity equivalent price for manufacturing milk and 78 percent of parity for butterfat, as of early 1956.

DELAWARE CROP REPORT

Fall seeded grains came through the winter in generally good condition. Some thin stands in northern localities of Delaware are attributed to poor stands obtained last fall rather than winter injury. Soil moisture supplies were ample as of April 1. Plowing has been retarded in most sections of the State because of wet soil conditions.

Winter Wheat

The 1956 wheat crop is placed at 748,000 bushels based on conditions as of April 1. A crop this size would be 1.3 percent smaller than last year and a third smaller than average.

Milk Production

Cows in herds of Delaware crop reporters averaged 21.0 pounds on April 1, compared with 20.0 pounds a month earlier and 19.2 pounds on April 1 a year earlier. Condition of pastures on the first of April was reported at 84 percent -- 4 points higher than a year earlier, but 4 points lower than the 1945-54 average for the date.

Egg Production

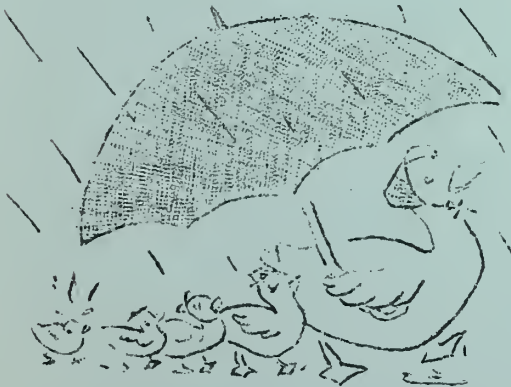
Production during March was estimated at 14 million eggs -- up 1 million over March of 1955. The number of layers on hand during March -- at 733,000 -- was up 5 percent above March last year. The average rate of lay per 100 hens was 1860 eggs compared with 1826 for March 1955.

Grain Stocks on Farms April 1

Delaware farmers had 1,476,000 bushels of corn on hand April 1 -- 1.3 percent less than the April 1 holdings a year ago. Wheat stocks on farms totaled 26,000 bushels compared with 34,000 bushels on April 1, 1955 and the 1945-54 average of 53,000 bushels. Farm stocks of oats, at 86,000 bushels, were 9 percent larger than the quantity on hand on April 1 last year and more than double the 10-year average for the date. Barley stocks on Delaware farms April 1, were placed at 48,000 bushels -- about one-fifth less than a year earlier but about the same as the 1945-54 average for April 1. Soybeans on farms were estimated at 126,000 bushels -- about half as much as the quantity held on farms on April 1, 1955, and 39 percent less than average.

FOR THE DELAWARE ASC STATE COMMITTEE

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